



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Pool 8 Islands Phase III, Wis.



Phase III area of Pool 8 Islands project (Phase I top of photo), Wis.

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the site is an open, lake-like reach of pool 8 on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Stoddard, Wisconsin. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Many of the islands in pool 8 have eroded or disappeared. This has increased wind fetch and associated turbidity in the backwater areas, resulting in an observed loss of valuable aquatic plant beds that migrating canvasback ducks use for food.

The proposed project would stabilize and construct islands in the lake-like portion of pool 8 primarily west of the navigation channel to reduce wave action and associated turbidity in the backwater area. The islands would be constructed with dredged material from the backwaters and protected with riprap and vegetation to prevent erosion. Construction of the islands would maintain existing valuable habitat and provide physical conditions necessary for the re-establishment of aquatic plant beds and deepwater habitat, benefiting a wide spectrum of fish and wildlife in the area.

This project is the third of five proposed phases of island construction in lower pool 8 for habitat enhancement.

Status

General design for the project began in 1999. Project objectives and alternative plans are being developed. A Definite Project Report will be prepared in 2002 and public meetings held during the next two years.

Authority

The Pool 8 Islands Phase III Habitat Project is being planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP). The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project is being planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are 100 percent Federal because the project is located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

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| Federal Cost | \$15,120,000 |
| Non-Federal Cost | \$0 |
| Total Estimated Cost | \$15,120,000 |